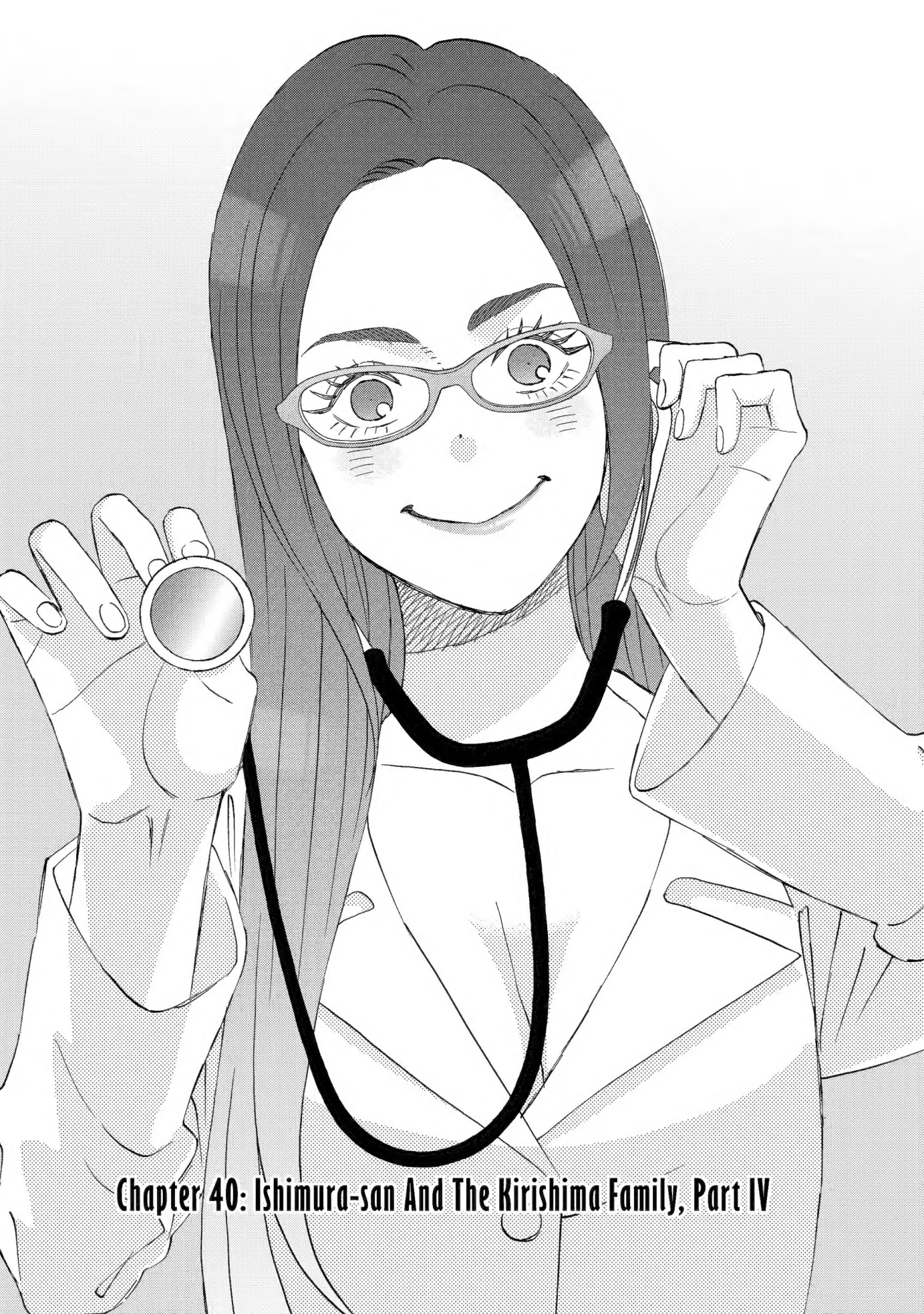
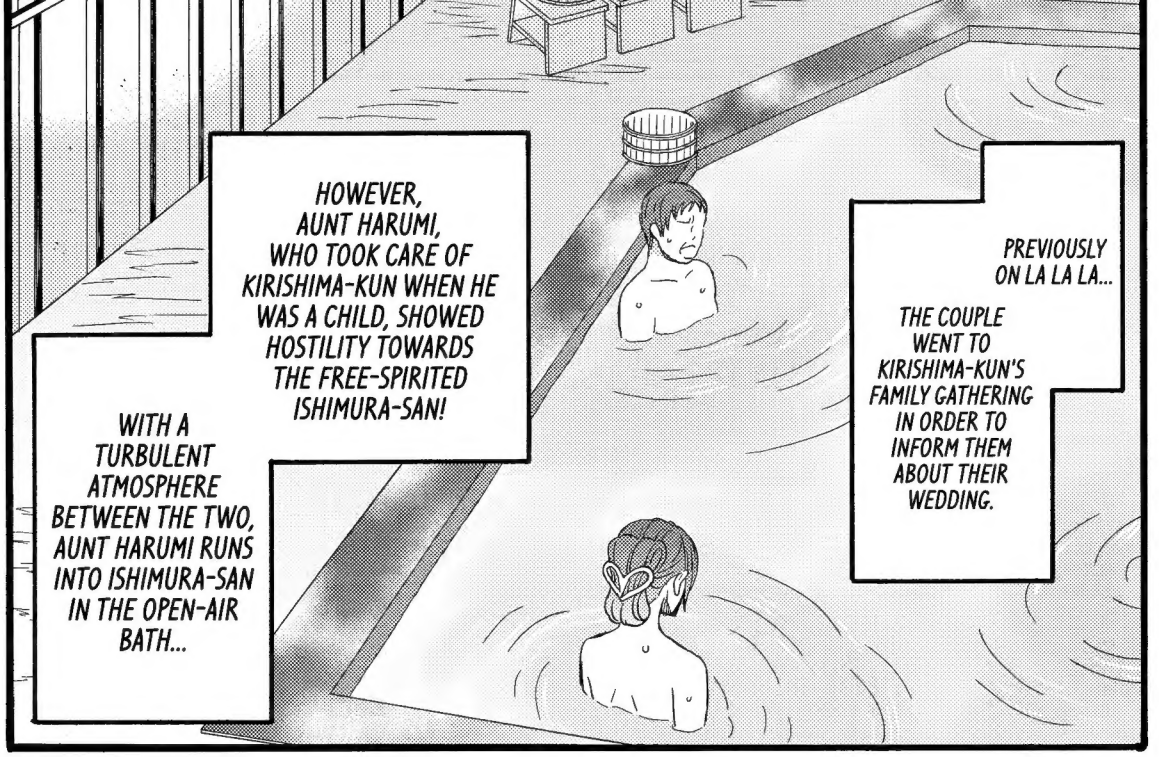
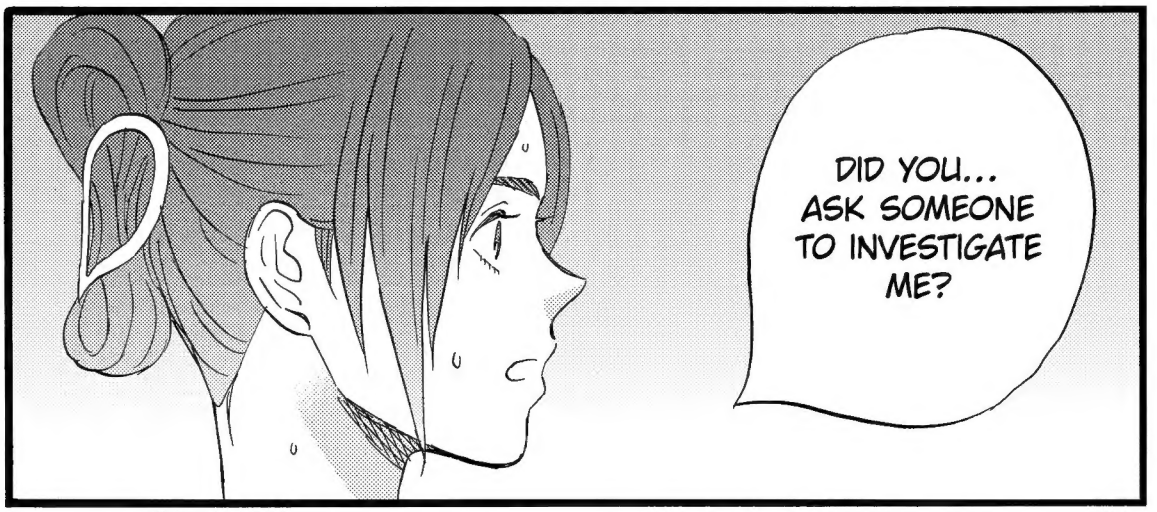
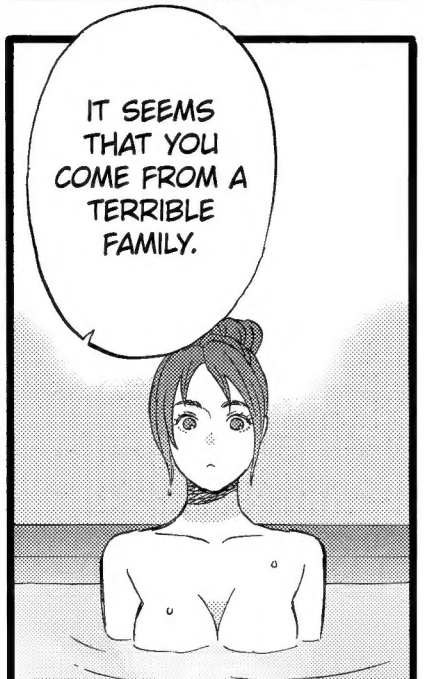
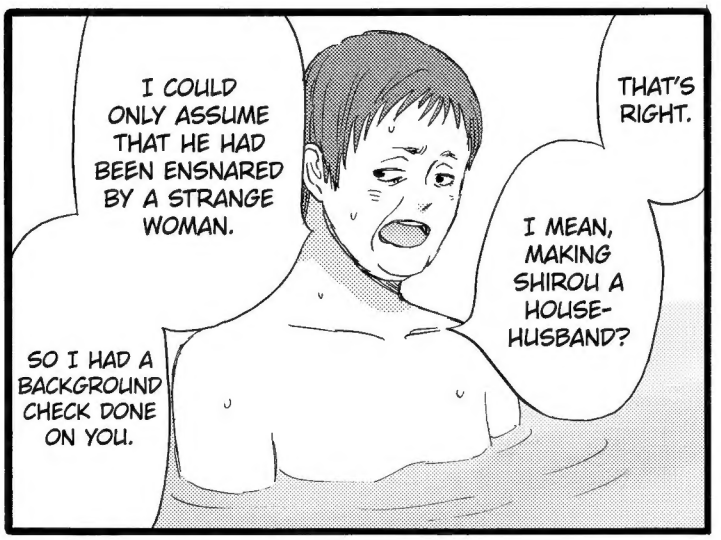


Chapter 40: Ishimura-san And The Kirishima Family, Part IV


PREVIOUSLY ON LA LA LA...
THE COUPLE WENT TO KIRISHIMA-KUN'S FAMILY GATHERING IN ORDER TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THEIR WEDDING.
HOWEVER, AUNT HARUMI, WHO TOOK CARE OF KIRISHIMA-KUN WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, SHOWED HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE FREE-SPIRITED ISHIMURA-SAN!
WITH A TURBULENT ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE TWO, AUNT HARUMI RUNS INTO ISHIMURA-SAN IN THE OPEN-AIR BATH...


DID YOU... ASK SOMEONE TO INVESTIGATE ME?


IT SEEMS THAT YOU COME FROM A TERRIBLE FAMILY.


THAT'S RIGHT.
I MEAN, MAKING SHIROU A HOUSE-HUSBAND?
I COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT HE HAD BEEN ENSNARED BY A STRANGE WOMAN.
SO I HAD A BACKGROUND CHECK DONE ON YOU.

YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT...

BUT I'M SURPRISED THEY DECIDED TO ADOPT AND RAISE SUCH AN ODD CHILD.

I KNOW YOUR GRANDPARENTS ARE BLOOD RELATIVES...

YOUR REAL MOTHER DISAPPEARED AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO YOU, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOUR FATHER IS.

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BRAG ABOUT YOUR GRANDPARENTS!

OH. IS THAT SO?

W-WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL EMBARRASSED?!

Heh heh!

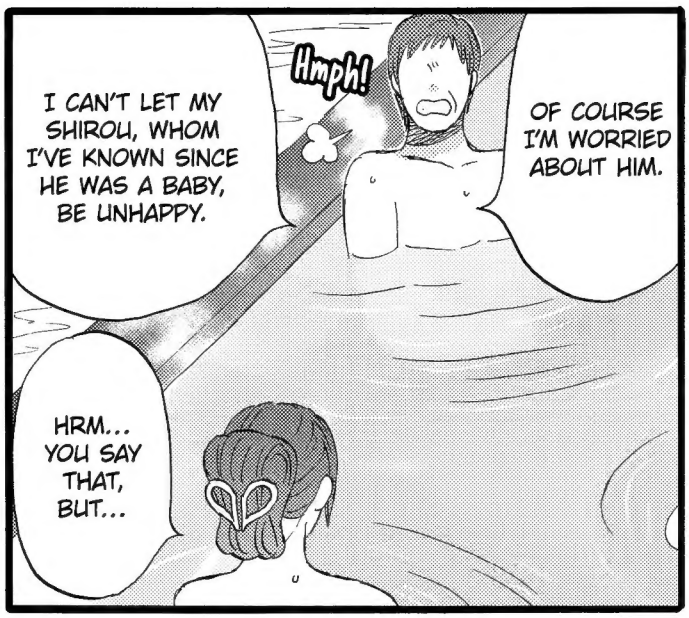
THEY'RE KIND, UPSTANDING PEOPLE.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE TO BE THAT WORRIED ABOUT HIM?

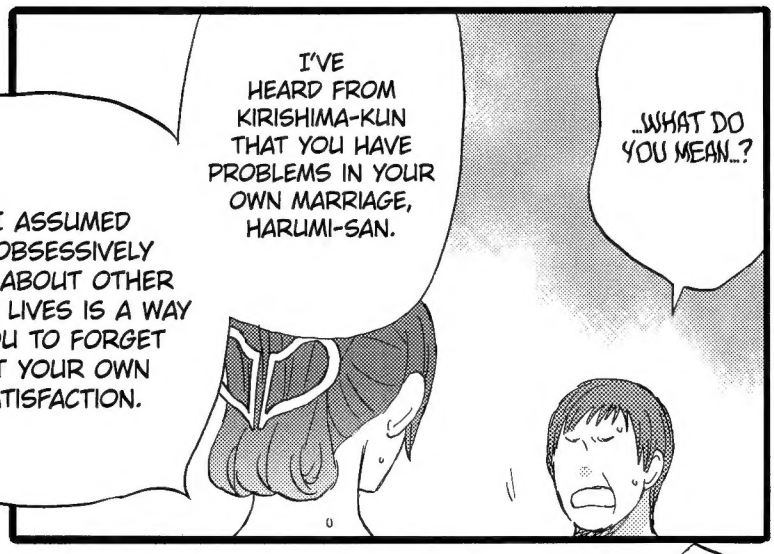
KIRISHIMA-KUN IS AN ADULT. IT'S NOT LIKE WE COMMITTED A CRIME BY MARRYING, EITHER.

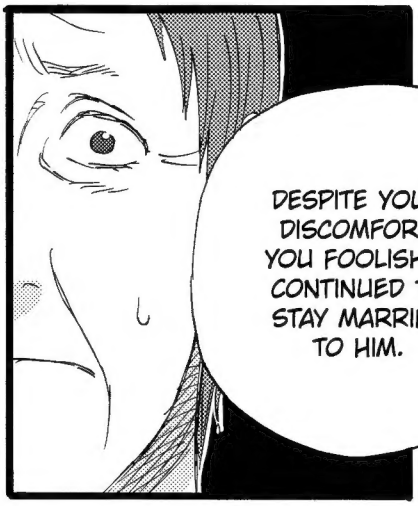
I'M HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING WHY YOU'RE SO HOSTILE TO ME.

INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT KIRISHIMA-KUN SO MUCH, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF INSTEAD?


OF COURSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
Hmph!
I CAN'T LET MY SHIROU, WHOM I'VE KNOWN SINCE HE WAS A BABY, BE UNHAPPY.
HRM... YOU SAY THAT, BUT...

H-HOW RUDE...!


...WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
I'VE HEARD FROM KIRISHIMA-KUN THAT YOU HAVE PROBLEMS IN YOUR OWN MARRIAGE, HARUMI-SAN.
SO I ASSUMED THAT OBSESSIVELY CARING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES IS A WAY FOR YOU TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR OWN DISSATISFACTION.


DESPITE YOUR DISCOMFORT, YOU FOOLISHLY CONTINUED TO STAY MARRIED TO HIM.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE SUCH A PROBLEM...!
I HEARD THAT YOUR HUSBAND CHEATED ON YOU... IT WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM IF YOU ACCEPTED THAT FACT AND CONDONED THE AFFAIR. BUT...

YOU DECIDE ON A PARTNER TO SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH, AND YOU MOVE IN WITH AND LIVE TOGETHER.

I'M NO EXPERT IN THESE MATTERS, BUT ISN'T MARRIAGE A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO FIND HAPPINESS?

Y-

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POINTLESS TO REMAIN IN THAT RELATIONSHIP IF BEING TOGETHER ONLY CAUSES YOU PAIN?

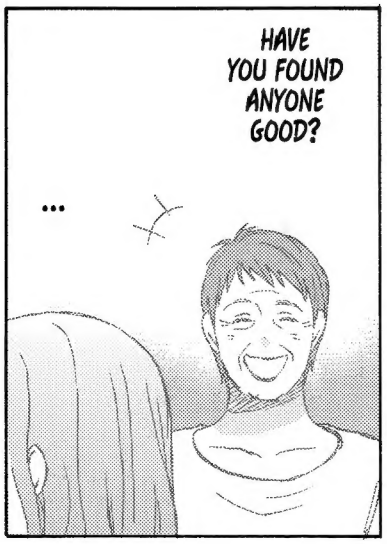
...MARRIAGE?

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY AREN'T THINGS YOU CAN EASILY GIVE UP ON!

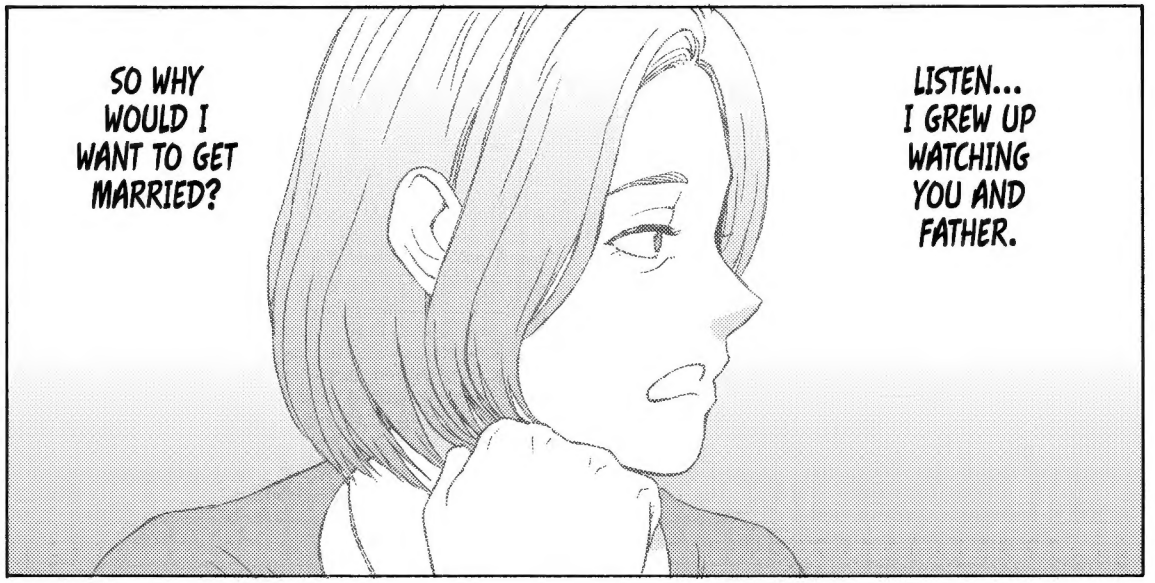
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FELT OR HOW BADLY I WANTED TO PROTECT MY FAMILY!!

YOU... DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ....!!

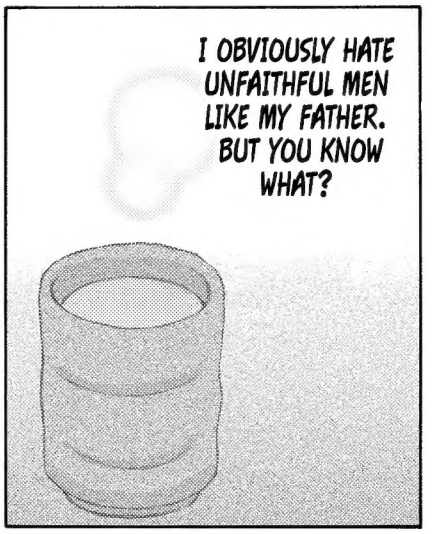
splash

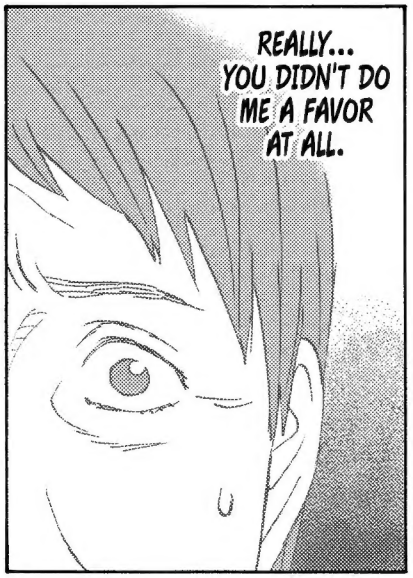

HAVE YOU FOUND ANYONE GOOD?
...

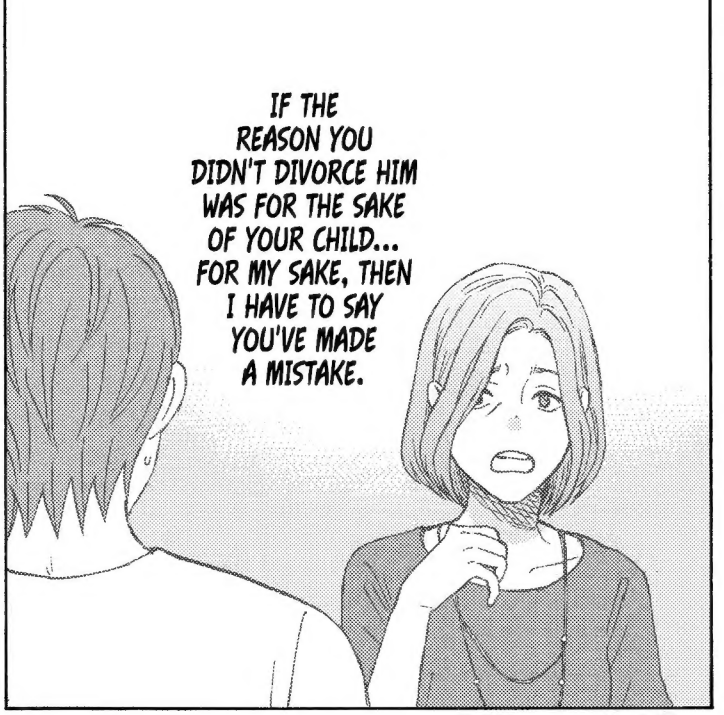
POINT...? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE AT THE AGE WHERE YOU SHOULD START THINKING ABOUT IT.
IS THERE ANY POINT IN GETTING MARRIED?


SO WHY WOULD I WANT TO GET MARRIED?
LISTEN... I GREW UP WATCHING YOU AND FATHER.

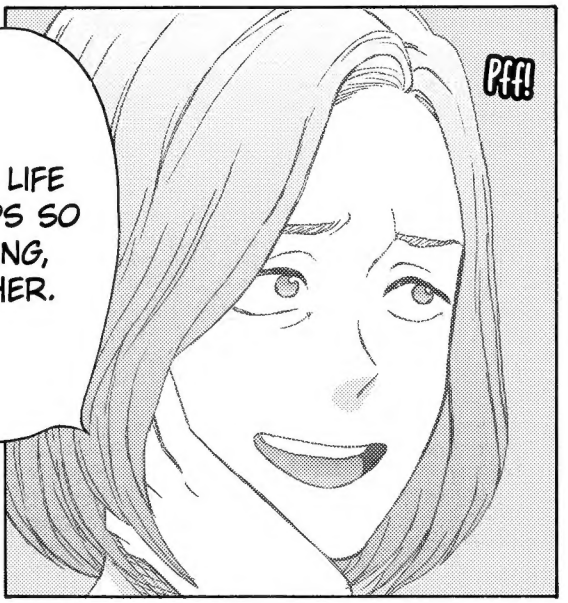
WHAT...?!
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE MUCH BETTER, FOR CLINGING TO A MAN LIKE HIM.


I OBVIOUSLY HATE UNFAITHFUL MEN LIKE MY FATHER. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?


REALLY... YOU DIDN'T DO ME A FAVOR AT ALL.


IF THE REASON YOU DIDN'T DIVORCE HIM WAS FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR CHILD... FOR MY SAKE, THEN I HAVE TO SAY YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

YOUR LIFE SOUNDS SO BORING, MOTHER.


Pff!

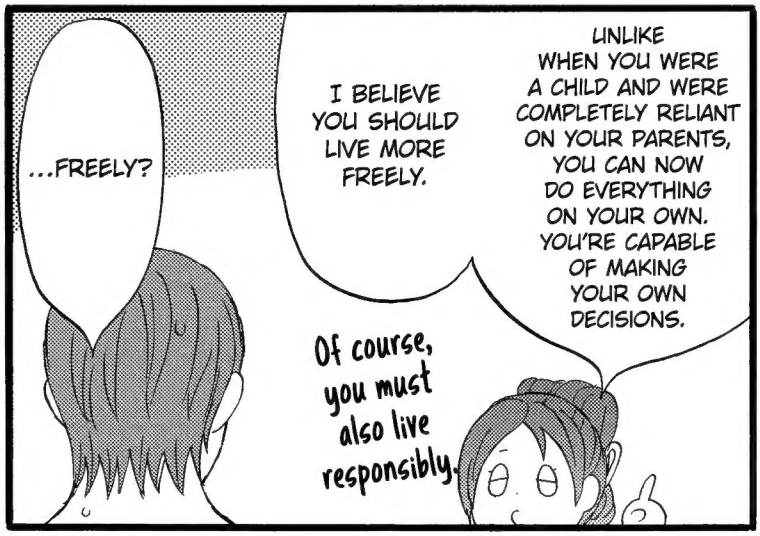
...

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE ENDURED...!!
YOU...
YOU SHOULD TRY LIVING THE WAY YOU WANT TO SOMETIMES.

YOU'RE AN ADULT. I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO ENDURE IT ANYMORE.
Haaa...!

...I DON'T KNOW, BUT...

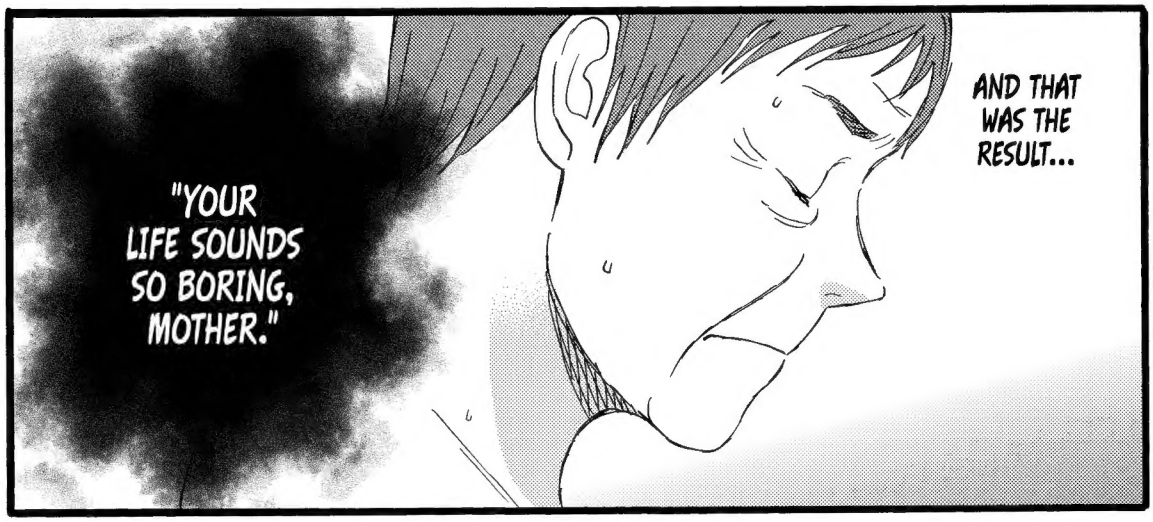
WHAT A JOKE!
DO YOU THINK THAT'S SOMETHING A RESPONSIBLE ADULT WOULD DO...?


...FREELY?
I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD LIVE MORE FREELY.
UNLIKE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD AND WERE COMPLETELY RELIANT ON YOUR PARENTS, YOU CAN NOW DO EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE CAPABLE OF MAKING YOUR OWN DECISIONS.
Of course, you must also live responsibly.

DESPITE YOUR FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU STILL GREW UP WORRY-FREE...
YOU'RE TRULY A WEIRD WOMAN...
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL AND INTELLIGENT. AND YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT...

EVEN SO, I KEPT ENDURING IT...
OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

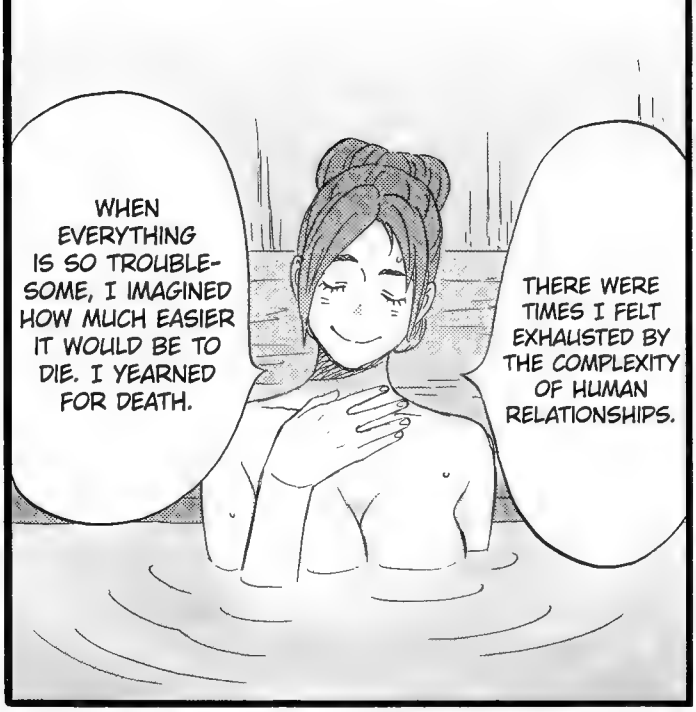
...I'VE LOST COUNT OF THE NUMBER OF TIMES I'VE ENTERTAINED THAT THOUGHT.
I BET YOU NEVER WANTED TO DIE.


"YOUR LIFE SOUNDS SO BORING, MOTHER."
AND THAT WAS THE RESULT...

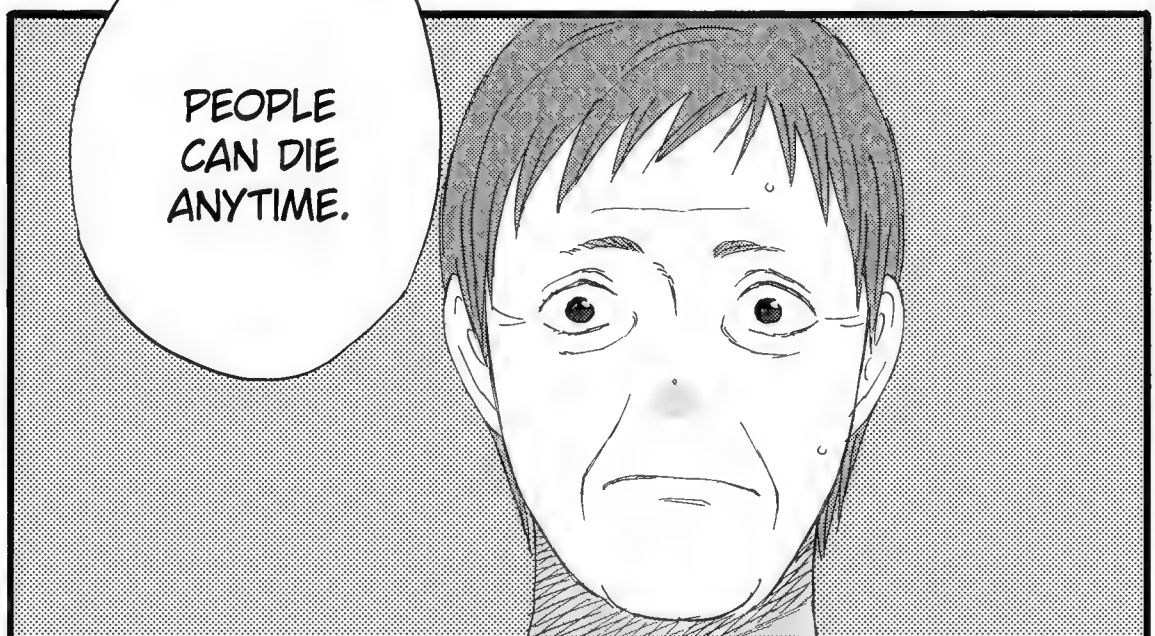
I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE WORLD IS A DIFFICULT PLACE TO LIVE EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

I HAD THE SAME THOUGHTS AS YOU, BUT WENT ABOUT IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S NORMAL FOR PEOPLE TO THINK THAT THEY WANT TO DIE.

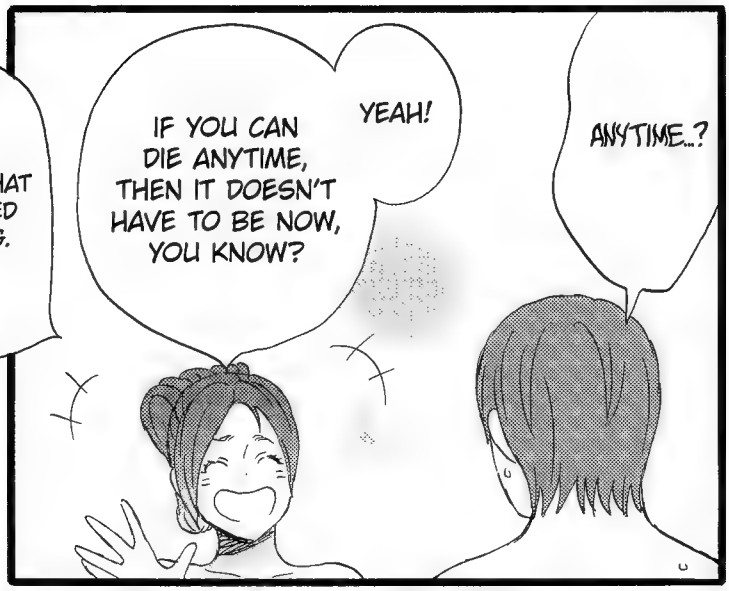
I BET THAT NOT MANY THINGS CONCERN YOU.
...SO YOU SAY, BUT YOU LOOK FAIRLY ALIVE TO ME.
NO. THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL.

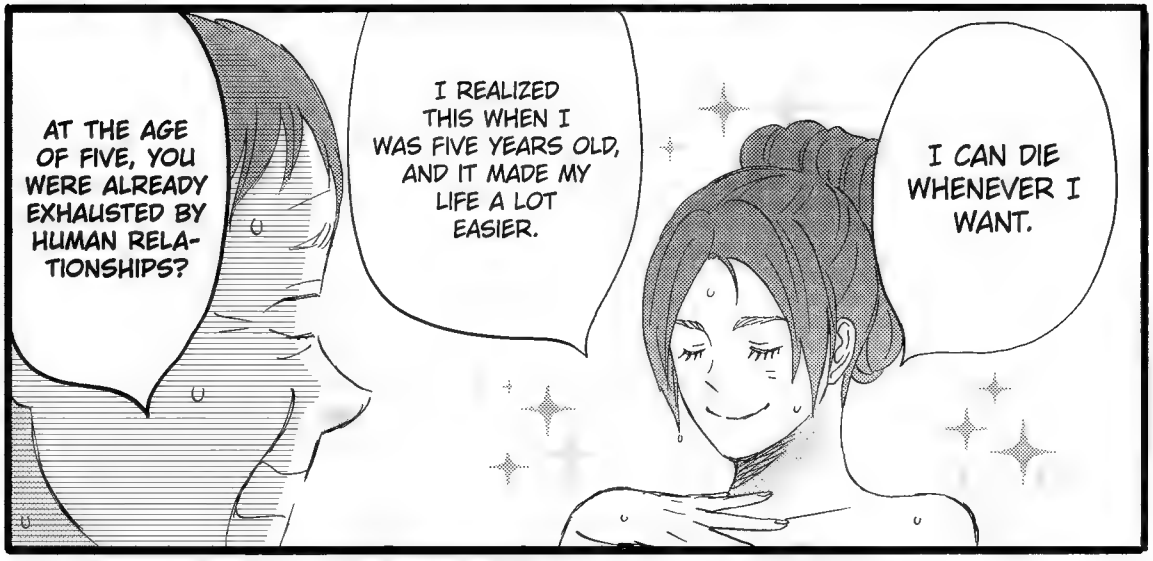

WHEN EVERYTHING IS SO TROUBLE-SOME, I IMAGINED HOW MUCH EASIER IT WOULD BE TO DIE. I YEARNED FOR DEATH.
THERE WERE TIMES I FELT EXHAUSTED BY THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.

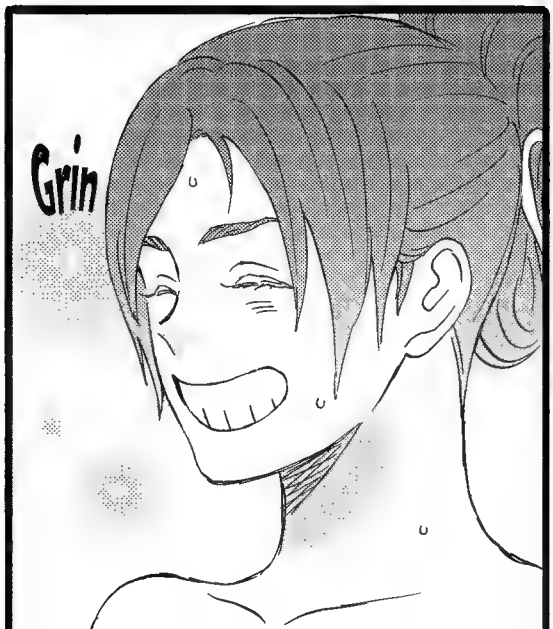
IF YOU HAVE EVER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED DYING, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A SECOND... YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.

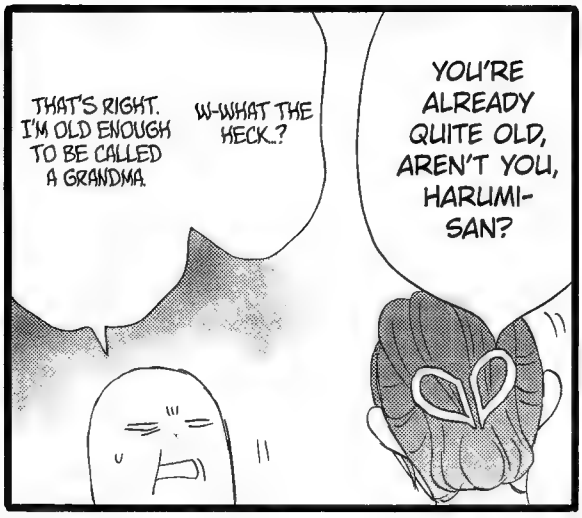

PEOPLE CAN DIE ANYTIME.

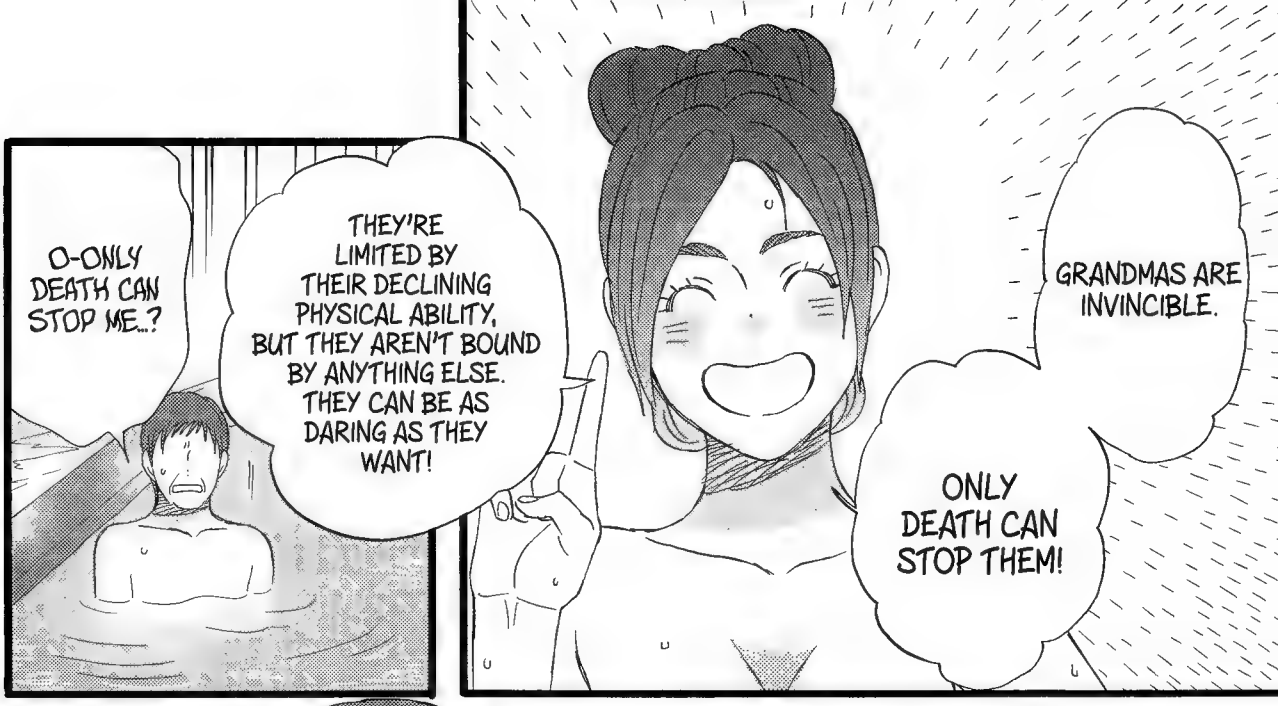
...
THAT'S WHAT I STARTED THINKING.


IF YOU CAN DIE ANYTIME, THEN IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NOW, YOU KNOW?
YEAH!
ANYTIME...?


AT THE AGE OF FIVE, YOU WERE ALREADY EXHAUSTED BY HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS?
I REALIZED THIS WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, AND IT MADE MY LIFE A LOT EASIER.
I CAN DIE WHENEVER I WANT.

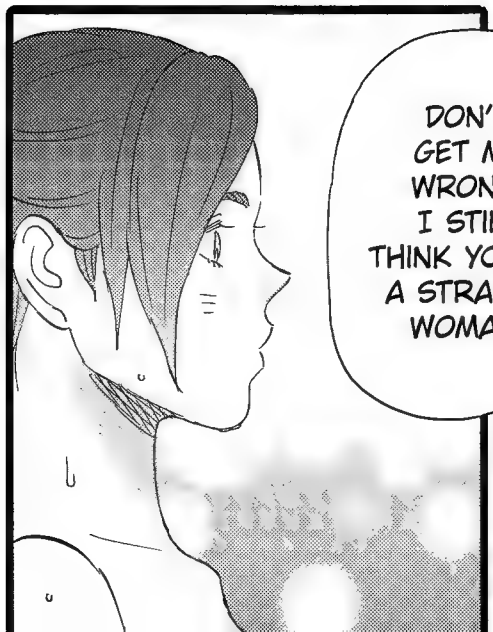

Grin

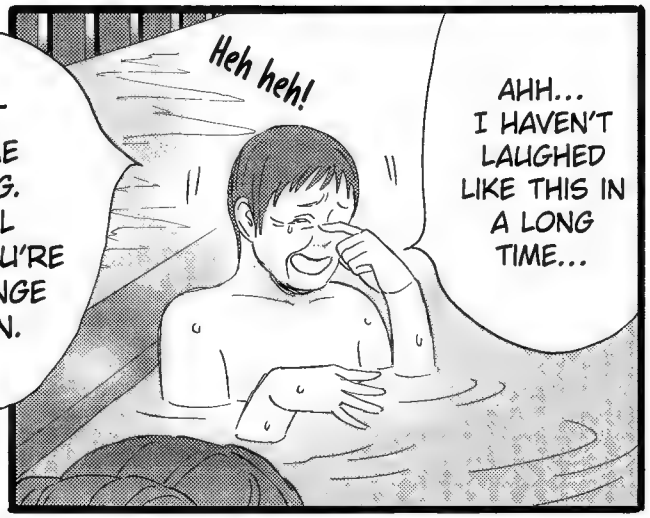

YOU'RE ALREADY QUITE OLD, AREN'T YOU, HARUMI-SAN?
W-WHAT THE HECK...?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BE CALLED A GRANDMA.


O-ONLY DEATH CAN STOP ME...?
THEY'RE LIMITED BY THEIR DECLINING PHYSICAL ABILITY, BUT THEY AREN'T BOUND BY ANYTHING ELSE. THEY CAN BE AS DARING AS THEY WANT!
GRANDMAS ARE INVINCIBLE.
ONLY DEATH CAN STOP THEM!

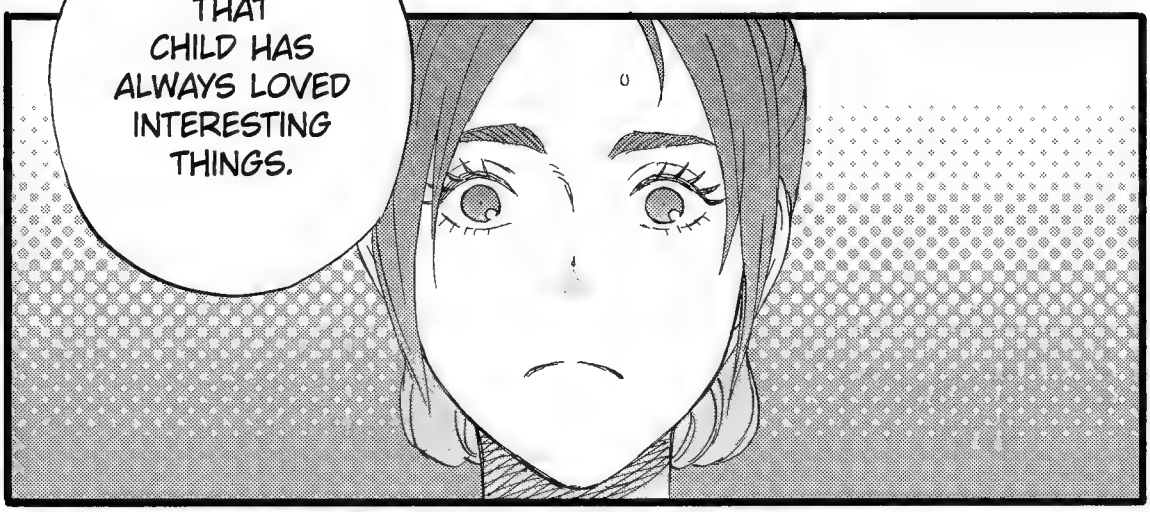
BUT THAT'S SUCH A CRUEL THING TO SAY!
YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE!
Bwa ha!
Ha ha ha!

PFFT...
KEH KEH...!


DON'T GET ME WRONG. I STILL THINK YOU'RE A STRANGE WOMAN.

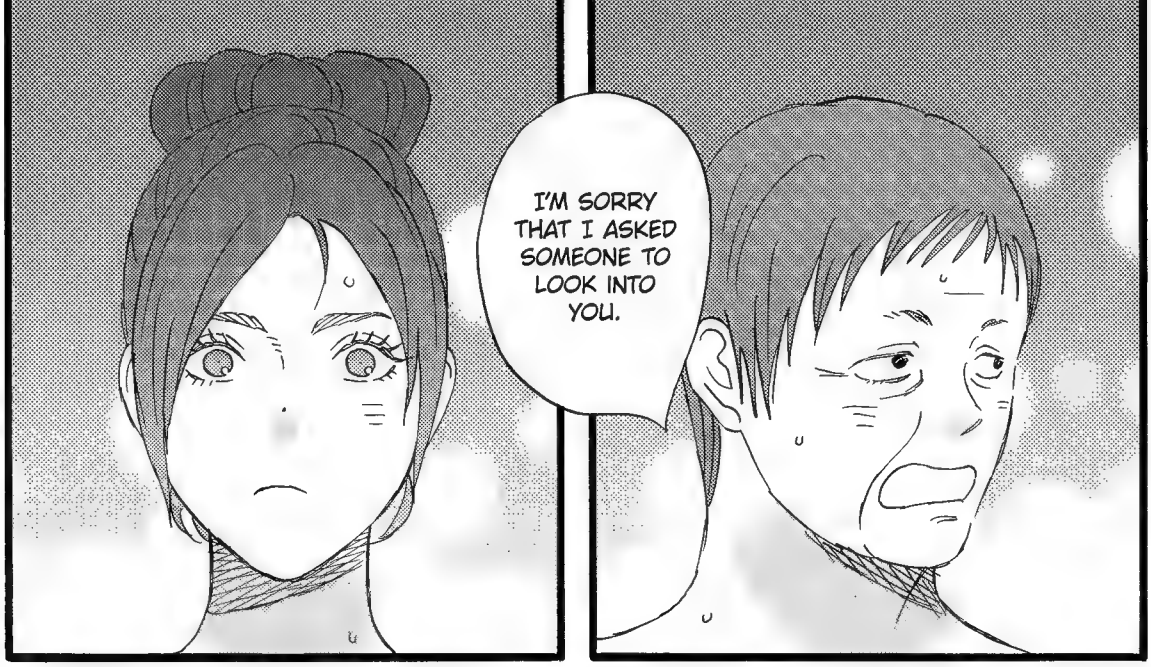

Heh heh!
AHH... I HAVEN'T LAUGHED LIKE THIS IN A LONG TIME...

Heh heh...
BUT I CAN FINALLY SEE WHY SHIROU WOULD FALL FOR YOU.


THAT CHILD HAS ALWAYS LOVED INTERESTING THINGS.

I'D LIKE TO TRY LIVING THE REST OF MY LIFE THE WAY YOU DO...
...THAT THOUGHT JUST CROSSED MY MIND.

I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE SMOOTH SAILING AT FIRST, BUT...

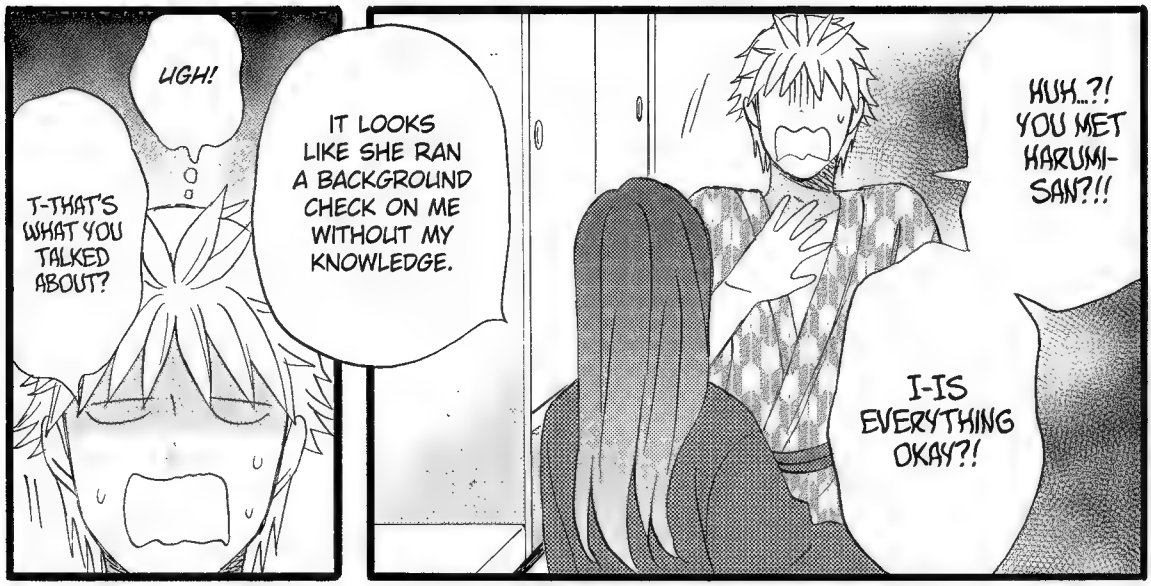

I'M SORRY THAT I ASKED SOMEONE TO LOOK INTO YOU.

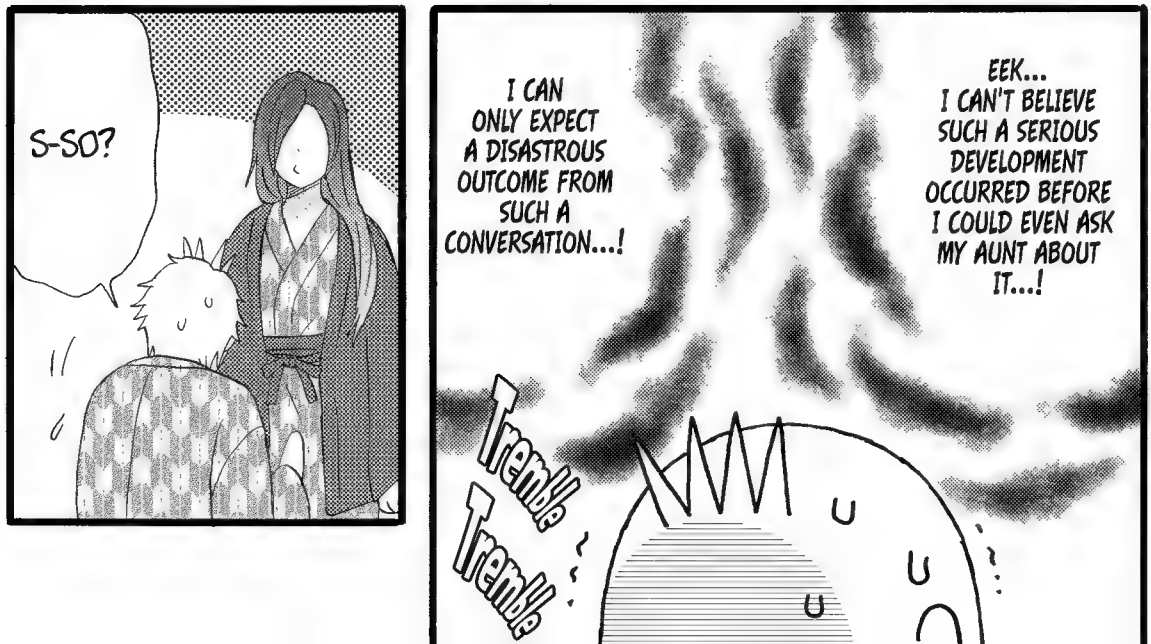
NO WORRIES. I'M USED TO BEING STALKED.
WHAAAT...?

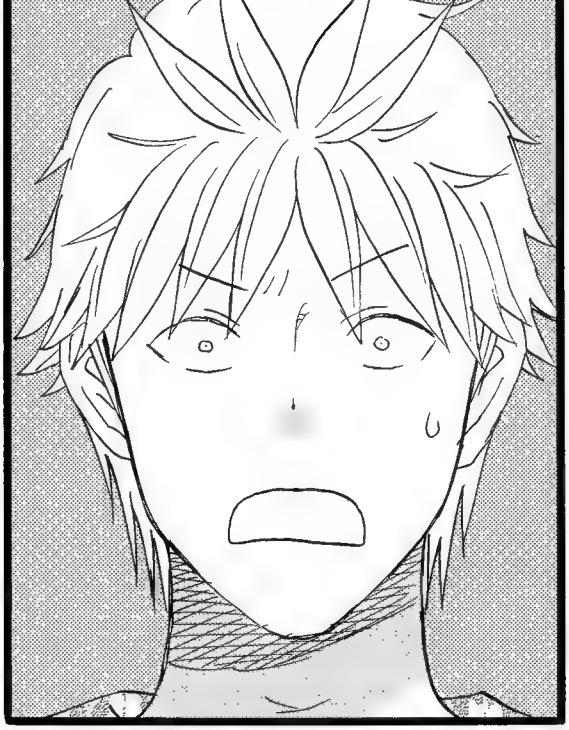
WELCOME BACK!
Squeeze
OHH... I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALREADY ASLEEP.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SLEEP!
HM? IS THAT SO?

SLAM
I'M BACK...

LEAN IN
CAN WE PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT...
I MET HARUMI-SAN IN THE OPEN-AIR BATH AND WE TALKED A LOT.

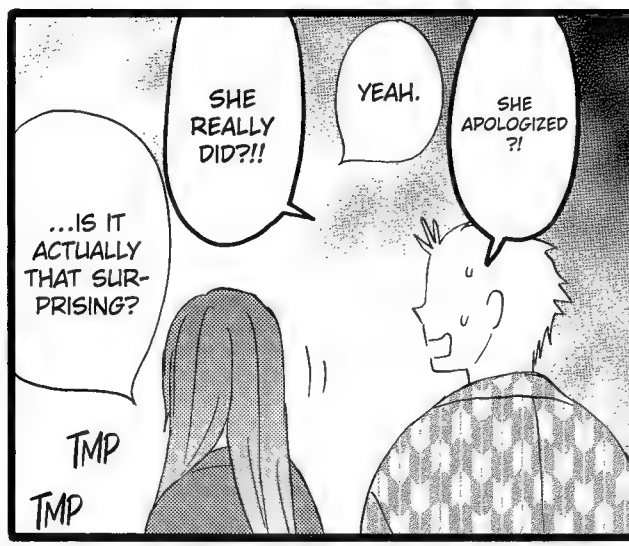

HUH...?! YOU MET HARUMI-SAN?!!
I-IS EVERYTHING OKAY?!
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE RAN A BACKGROUND CHECK ON ME WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.
UGH!
T-THAT'S WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT?

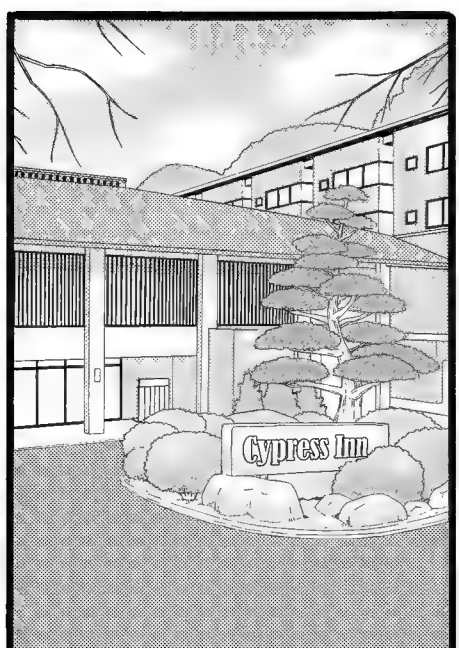

EEK... I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED BEFORE I COULD EVEN ASK MY AUNT ABOUT IT...!
I CAN ONLY EXPECT A DISASTROUS OUTCOME FROM SUCH A CONVERSATION...!
Tremble
Tremble
S-SO?



SHE APOLOGIZED FOR LOOKING INTO ME.

WHAT THE HECK DID THEY TALK ABOUT?
AUNT HARUMI APOLOGIZED TO ISHIMURA-SAN...?
ANYWAY, I WANT TO GO HOME EARLY TOMORROW, SO I'M GOING TO BED.
Nighty night...

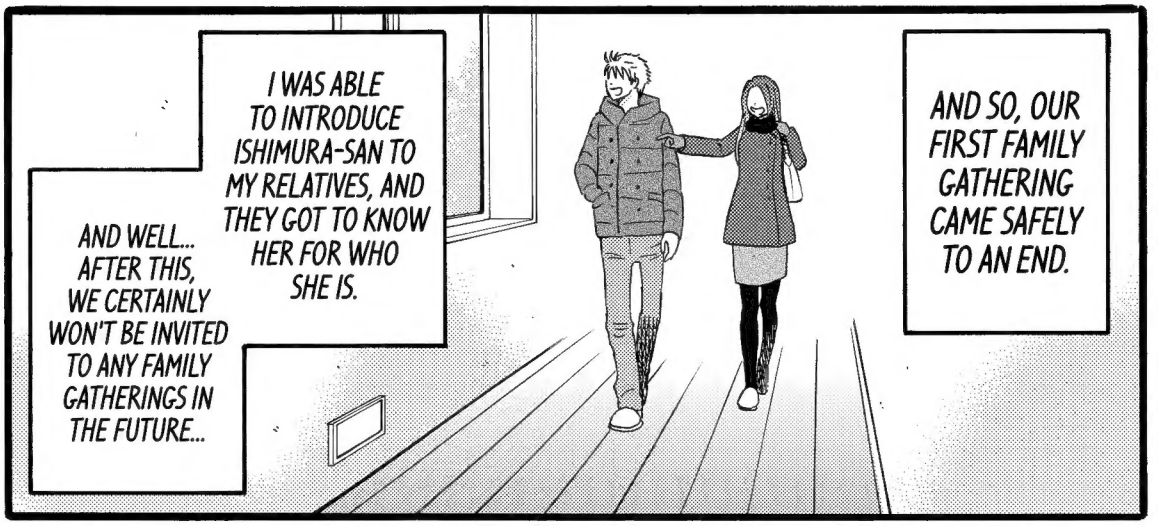

SHE APOLOGIZED ?!
YEAH.
SHE REALLY DID?!!
...IS IT ACTUALLY THAT SUR-PRISING?
TMP
TMP


Cypress Inn

...WAIT, ISHIMURA-SAN?
HUH...? YOU'RE ALREADY ASLEEP? SERIOUSLY?!
WHAT ABOUT THE SEX?!

I BLEW ANOTHER CHANCE, SO... I'M JUST FRUSTRATED...
WHAT'S UP? COULDN'T SLEEP?
Ughh...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

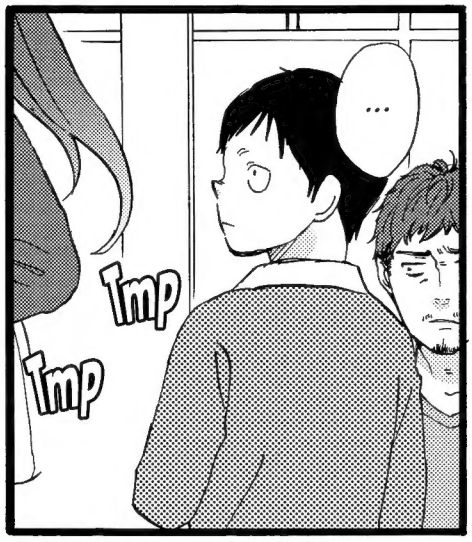
...IT SURE IS...
Time to go home...!
IT'S NICE TO GO ON TRIPS SOMETIMES!
Ha ha...
Tmp
Tmp

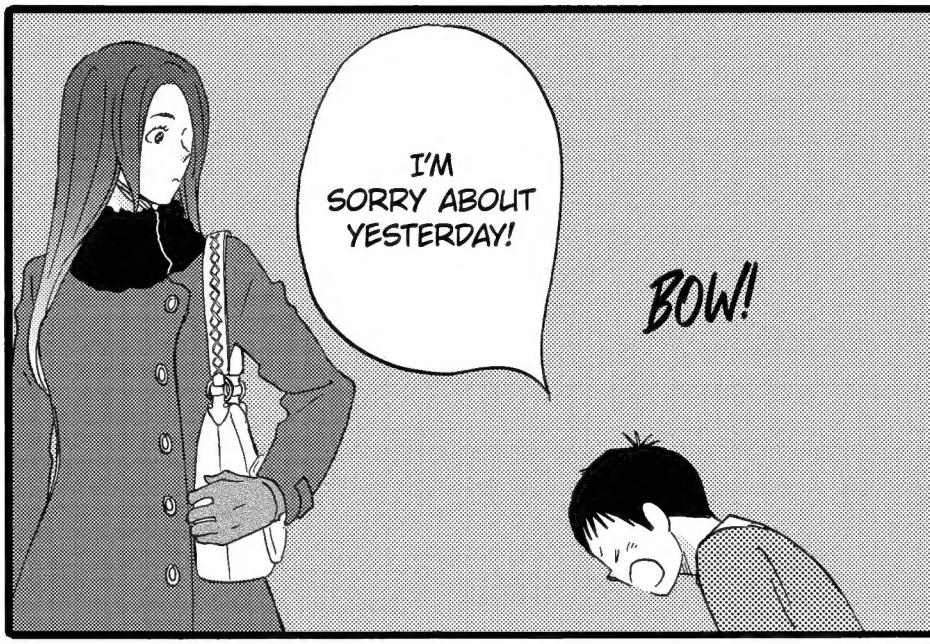

I WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE ISHIMURA-SAN TO MY RELATIVES, AND THEY GOT TO KNOW HER FOR WHO SHE IS.
AND WELL... AFTER THIS, WE CERTAINLY WON'T BE INVITED TO ANY FAMILY GATHERINGS IN THE FUTURE...
AND SO, OUR FIRST FAMILY GATHERING CAME SAFELY TO AN END.

HE'S TOTALLY GLARING AT US...

WHOA... THAT'S COUSIN KOUJI.

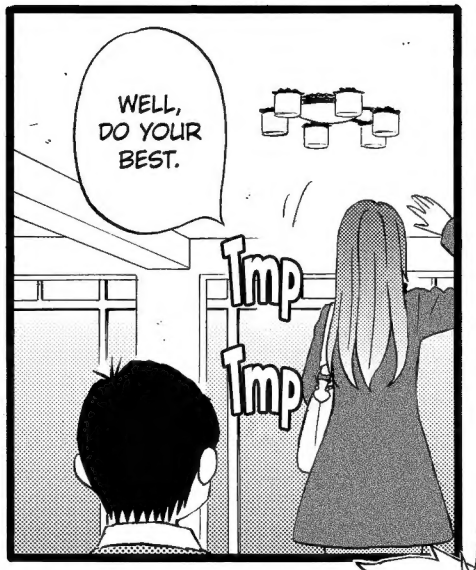
UM...
HEY, STOP IT! WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'LL DO...?!
Step

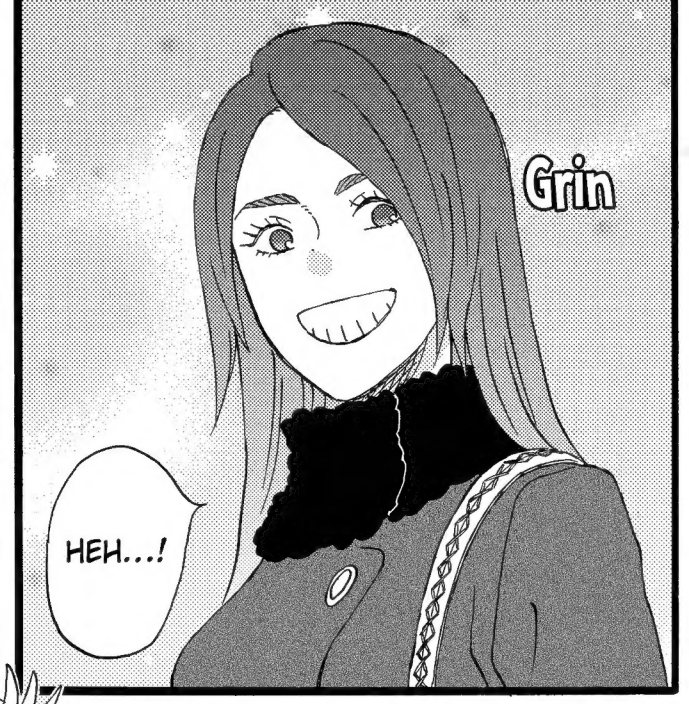

...
Tmp
Tmp

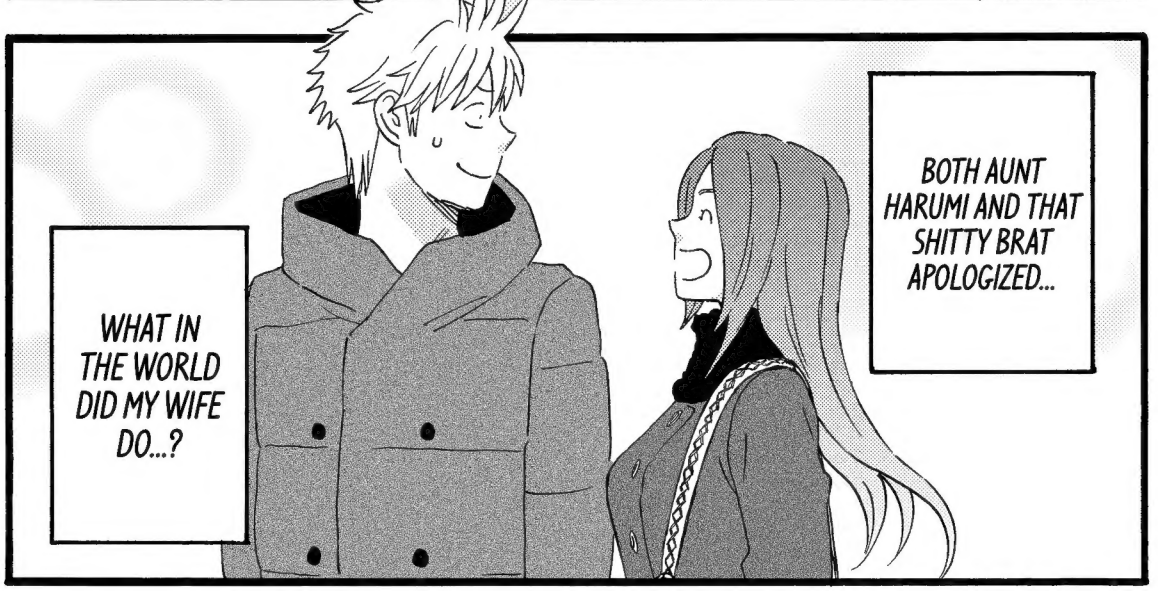

I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY!
BOW!

I'LL DO MY BEST TO GET IT NEXT YEAR!
I'LL BECOME A GOOD GUY...!!

WHAT? EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE, I'M NOT GIVING YOU THE NEW YEAR'S MONEY.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY...

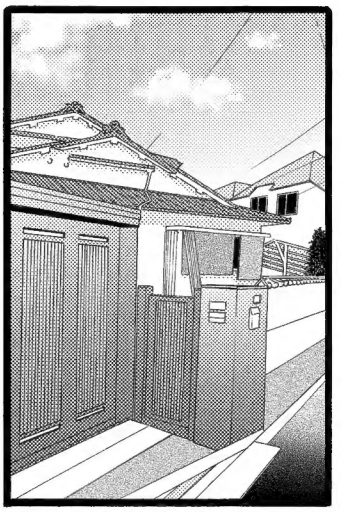

WELL, DO YOUR BEST.
Tmp
Tmp

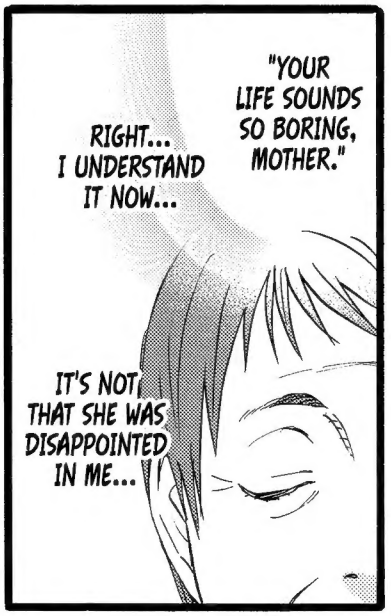

Grin
HEH...!

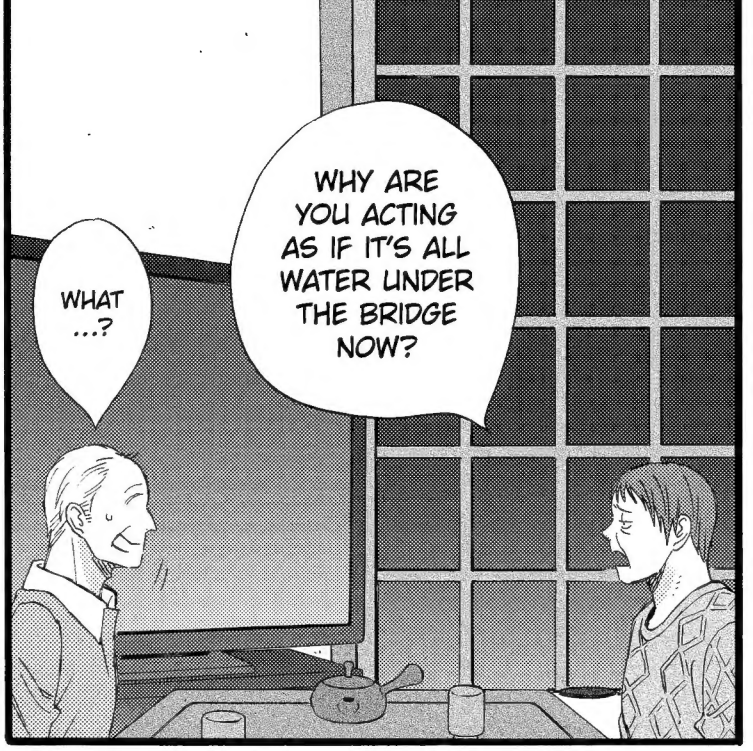

WHAT IN THE WORLD DID MY WIFE DO...?
BOTH AUNT HARUMI AND THAT SHITTY BRAT APOLOGIZED...

...

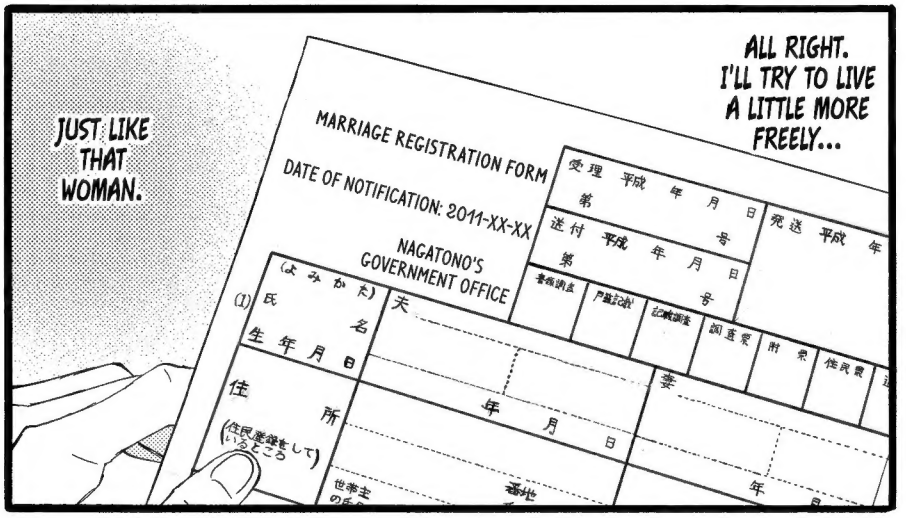
...A LOT HAPPENED, BUT I GUESS WE FINALLY SETTLED DOWN, EH?
Phew...




"YOUR LIFE SOUNDS SO BORING, MOTHER."
RIGHT... I UNDERSTAND IT NOW...
IT'S NOT THAT SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN ME...


WHAT ...?
WHY ARE YOU ACTING AS IF IT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW?

Flap...
AFTER ALL, ONLY DEATH CAN STOP ME...
"YOU SHOULD TRY LIVING THE WAY YOU WANT TO SOMETIMES."


JUST LIKE THAT WOMAN.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY TO LIVE A LITTLE MORE FREELY...
MARRIAGE REGISTRATION FORM
DATE OF NOTIFICATION: 2011-XX-XX
NAGATONO'S GOVERNMENT OFFICE